

Merger Proposal Review Sheet for Accelerated, Conventional and Alternative Structures

Supervisory District: Lamoille South (Elmore-Morristown)	Date Submitted: 9/4/15	Reviewed By: V. Altemus
<div> <div>Statutory Criteria</div> <div>Comments</div> </div>		
Criteria for merger pathways as defined in Act 46 of 2015.		
Accelerated Merger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Supervisory District was created from a single supervisory union and could include an adjoining supervisory district; is responsible for the education of all prekindergarten through grade 12 students; and has a minimum ADM of 900 in its initial year of operation. Organized and operates one of the following prekindergarten or kindergarten through grade 12; prekindergarten or kindergarten through grade 8, and pays tuition for all resident students in grade 9 through grade 12; or a prekindergarten or kindergarten through grade 6 and pays tuition for resident students in grade 7 through grade 12. Plan to hold district vote on new Supervisory District by July 1, 2016. Plan to be operational by July 1, 2017. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet <input type="checkbox"/> NA	Not applying for an accelerated merger.

<p>Conventional Merger (Sec. 7 Districts Created After Deadline)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Supervisory District is responsible for the education of all prekindergarten through grade 12 students; and has a minimum ADM of 900 in its initial year of operation. • Organized and operates one of the following prekindergarten or kindergarten through grade 12; prekindergarten or kindergarten through grade 8 and pays tuition for all resident students in grade 9 through grade 12; or a prekindergarten or kindergarten through grade 6 and pays tuition for resident students in grade 7 through grade 12. • Plan to be operational after July 1, 2017 and on or before July 1, 2019. 	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet <input type="checkbox"/> NA </p>	<p>Not applying for a conventional merger.</p>
<p>Alternative Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to submit proposal for alternative structure by November 30, 2017. • Remains a supervisory union with the fewest districts practicable and a combined ADM of 1,100 • Collectively responsible for the education of students PreK – 12 • Maximizes efficiencies and shares non-financial resources. 	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA </p>	<p>A study committee has submitted a report proposing that the districts of Elmore and Morristown merge to form a unified union. This opportunity was created in Act 156 of 2012 and continues to be available. It does not and cannot exactly meet any of the Act 46 configurations.</p> <p>The merger makes the unified union responsible for the education of students PreK-12.</p> <p>The merger consolidates financial resources</p>

Criteria that the merger is in the best interest of the state, as required by 16 V.S.A. § 706c.		
<p>Provide substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities. Act 46, Section 2 (1)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet</p>	<p>In most grades all students will be attending the same school. The new unified system proposes to ensure equity across sites within the new union. As part of a new, larger system, families and voters in Elmore will have grade level performance data which is currently suppressed due to their small size.</p>
<p>Lead students to achieve or exceed the State's Education Quality Standards, adopted as rules by the State Board of Education at the direction of the General Assembly. Act 46, Section 2 (2)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet</p>	<p>"The curricula, student programs and student services will meet or exceed all Vermont and federal legal and policy requirements" regarding curricula, education programs and student services. Specifically: A. The town expects to benefit from increased stability in the available educational opportunities: (1) due to combined enrollment which supports maintenance of reasonable school sizes; (2) possibilities for program improvement/expansion if savings can be reinvested; and (3) through preventing losses of programs. B. Just-right class sizes...not too large, not too small.</p>
<p>Maximize operational efficiencies through increased flexibility to manage, share, and transfer resources, with a goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff. Act 46, Section 2 (3)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet</p>	<p>Elmore is a small district currently tuitioning grades 4-12. Consolidation of Elmore grades 4-12 students with Morristown students will increase the unified union districts ratio of students to fte staff.</p>
<p>Promote transparency and accountability.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets</p>	<p>School boards in tuitioning districts have a limited</p>

Act 46, Section 2 (4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	ability to gain information on the way various districts chosen by parents spend money. Much of this activity is left to parents with varying abilities to assess performance. The unified union will provide a significant improvement in transparency.
Delivered at a cost that parents, voters, and taxpayers value. Act 46, Section 2 (5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	The study estimates savings of \$490,000 within four years.

Illustration Only NOT an Act 46 Proposal

Study report shall specify the following articles of agreement:		
Article 1 The names of school districts the committee considers necessary to the establishment of the proposed union; provided, however, only districts named in the warning for the vote under section 706a of this chapter may be identified as necessary. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	
Article 2 The names of additional school districts the committee considers advisable to include in the proposed union school district. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	Not applicable.
Article 3 The grades to be operated by the proposed union school district. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	The unified union will operate grades preK-12.
Article 4 The cost and general location of any proposed new schools to be constructed and the cost and general description of any proposed renovations. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	No new schools are anticipated.
Article 5 A plan for the first year of the union school district's operation for the transportation of students, the assignment of staff, and curriculum that is consistent with existing contracts, collective bargaining agreements, or other provisions of law. The board of the union school district shall make all subsequent decisions regarding transportation, staff, and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	

curriculum subject to existing contracts, collective bargaining agreements, or other provisions of law. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(5)		
Article 6 The indebtedness of proposed member districts that the union school district shall assume. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(6)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	
Article 7 The specific pieces of real property of proposed member districts that the union shall acquire, their valuation, and how the union school district shall pay for them. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(7)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	
Article 8 The allocation of capital and operating expenses of the union school district among the member districts. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(8)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	
Article 9 Consistent with the proportional representation requirements of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, the method of apportioning the representation that each proposed member district shall have on the union school board. The union school board shall have no more than 18 members, and each member district shall be entitled to at least one representative. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(9)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	Note: two board members will reside in Morristown and two in Elmore. The remaining three may reside in either. All seven will be elected in an at-large vote.
Article 10 The term of office of directors initially elected, to be arranged so that one-third expire on the day of the second annual meeting of the respective districts,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	

one-third on the day of the third annual meeting of the respective districts, and one-third on the day of the fourth annual meeting of the respective districts, or as near to that proportion as possible. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(10)		
Article 11 The date on which the union school district proposal will be submitted to the voters. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(11)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	Nov. 3, 2015
Article 12 The date on which the union school district will begin operating schools and providing educational services. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	July 1, 2016.
Article 13 Any other matters that the committee considers pertinent, including whether votes on the union school district budget or public questions shall be by Australian ballot. 16 V.S.A. § 706b(b)(13)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meets <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Meet	Nothing in the remaining articles appears contrary to law or rule.